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Community *notes*

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observances

Howard County Government offices, courts, senior centers and animal shelter will be closed in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday on Monday, January 19. However, regular trash and recycling services will be in effect and the landfill will be open. County parks, community centers and facilities will be open; however, the Robinson Nature Center will be closed. The Regional Transportation Agency (RTA) will operate on a regular weekday schedule. For more information on RTA, please call 1-800-270-9553 or visit www.transitrt.com. All parking regulations and fees will be in effect.

The 9-1-1 Center, Police and Fire departments remain staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For emergencies, call 9-1-1; for non-emergencies, call 410-313-2200. County offices will re-open at regular business hours on Tuesday, January 20.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission will hold its [30th Annual Celebration](#) on Sunday, January 18, 2:00 p.m. at the Horowitz Center, Howard Community College.

Residents are also encouraged to [Sign-up](#) to take part in Sign up for the County's "Day of Service Across Howard County" Project on Monday, January 19.

The River Hill Community Association invites our youth to participate in their MLK Day of Service project by donating gently used books at Claret Hall (6020 Daybreak Circle) on Thursday, January 22, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. When you bring your books, they'll provide markers, colored paper, stickers, scissors, music, light snacks, and information about MLK. The books will be given to the Howard County Reading Council's Laundromat Literacy program.

Greeting

Today would have been the 86th birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His work has made a profound impact on our lives. I particularly like his words, "I have decided to stick to love...Hate is too great a burden to bear." It's a good way to live.

Mary Kay

Talk about Extreme Weather

The Earth Forum of Howard County invites the public to a presentation by Dr. Wayne Higgins the Director of the Climate Program for NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and a nationally recognized authority on extreme weather on Sunday, January 18, 3:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Howard County, 9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia (Rt. 29 and Rt. 108). The event is free.



Free Budget and Credit Counseling Workshop

Learn the basics of credit and budgeting at a free workshop on Wednesday, January 21, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the North Laurel Community Center, located at 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road, in Laurel, MD 20723.

Geared toward older adults and individuals with disabilities, this free workshop is presented by Aline Humphries of the Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Maryland and Delaware, Inc., in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Aging and the Howard County Department of Citizen Services.

For more information or to register, contact Maryland Access Point of Howard County at 410-313-5980 (voice/relay) or email map@howardcountymd.gov.

Jazz @ The Lake



Latin jazz great Paquito D'Rivera will perform on Saturday, January 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Jim Rouse Theatre, Wilde Lake High School. Just back from a tour in Europe and Asia, the 12-time Grammy-winning saxophone and clarinet master will headline at the 11th annual Jazz @ The Lake Concert.

D'Rivera is celebrated both for his artistry in Latin jazz and his achievements as a classical composer. He moves effortlessly among jazz, Latin, and classical genres. D'Rivera will be accompanied by noted jazz musicians Diego Urcola (trumpet), Alex Brown (piano), Zach Brown (bass), Eric Doob (drums), and Paulo Stagnaro (percussion).

The award-winning Wilde Lake High School Jazz Ensemble will open the show and perform a joint piece with D'Rivera, known for mentoring young musicians. Wilde Lake Band Director Lewis Dutrow promises a "hot night of cool jazz" for all in attendance.

Advance purchase of tickets recommended. Purchase tickets online at InstantSeats.com/events/JimRouseTheatre. For more information, contact WildeLakeJazz@gmail.com or 410-997-2070.

Office of Children's Services Annual Information Fair

Howard County's Department of Citizen Services will host its annual preschool/child care information fair, "Children On Board," on Saturday, January 31, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Ten Oaks Ballroom (5000 Signal Bell Lane, Clarksville). Admission is free; however, attendees are asked to bring a nonperishable food item to donate to the Howard County Food Bank.

Coordinated by the Department's Office of Children's Services, "Children On Board" will provide parents, guardians, grandparents and child care personnel with "one stop shopping" for information on child care, pre-school and

summer programs, as well as the opportunity for personal contact with teachers and program directors. Representatives from community service organizations that offer programs and services to Howard



County's young children will also be on hand to provide information to interested parents. Attendees will also have the opportunity to attend free informational sessions on "How to Choose an Early Childhood Program" offered each hour by the Parents As Teachers' Program.

The new 2015 *Parent's Guide to Howard County* will be distributed at the event free of charge. For more information about the Fair, contact the Office of Children's Services at either 410-313-1940 or via e-mail at children@howardcountymd.gov.

Housing Offers Assistance to Homebuyers

Howard County Housing has announced that funds are now available to help families who qualify buy homes in Howard County through the Department's Settlement Downpayment Loan Program (SDLP). The Housing department has committed \$400,000 toward the deferred second mortgage loans, which can be used by preapproved homebuyers for settlement costs and downpayments.

The program offers homebuyers a choice of five different loan products, depending on the homebuyer's income and assets, funds may be used to purchase homes up to \$429,620, and buyers must agree to occupy the home as their primary residence. Interest rates are set at 2 percent below the first mortgage interest rate and repayment of the loans is deferred until resale, refinance or default. Additional incentives such as loan forgiveness are available under the Workforce Initiative Loan product for homeowners who work in Howard County.



Funds will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Homebuyers interested in applying for the program should contact a participating first mortgage lender to begin the application process. A list of approved lenders can be found on Housing's SDLP website at www.howardcountymd.gov/sdlp.htm.

For more information and for lenders who are interested in participating, contact Housing's Homeownership Division at 410-313-6318 (select option 4), email SDLP administrator Linda Phillips at lphillips@howardcountymd.gov or visit Housing's [SDLP website](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/sdlp.htm).

Howard County Poetry & Literature Society Invites You...

HoCoPoLitSo and Irish evening chair Catherine McLoughlin-Hayes will welcome to the 37th annual Evening of Irish Music and Poetry. Featured author for the evening is prolific novelist Emma Donoghue. She has written eight novels, three historical texts, four short story collections, five stage plays, and five radio dramas. Collectively, Donoghue's works have won the Lambda Literary Award, the Stonewall Book Award for Literature, the Ferro-Grumley Award for Lesbian Fiction, and the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize.



This event takes place on Friday, February 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Smith Theatre, Horowitz Performing Arts Center, HCC. Tickets are \$35 per person and may be purchased online at irishevening.eventbrite.com. For more information, visit the [website](http://irishevening.eventbrite.com).

Calling All Artists!

This year, the Meeting House Gallery will celebrate its 40th anniversary. To mark this occasion, the Gallery invites artists to offer their work for an exhibit entitled, "The Meeting House - Now and Then", focusing on, but not limited to, the history and vision of the Interfaith Center and Columbia, Maryland. The Gallery is accepting applications for artists to exhibit March 14 - May 16, 2015. Send images of two- and three-dimensional work by January 21, 2015 to www.themeetinghouse.org.

Seeking Members for Commission for Veterans and Military Families

Howard County is currently seeking individuals to serve on the Commission for Veterans and Military Families. The Commission is comprised of 13 members: nine who are veterans; two who are immediate family members of a veteran or person engaged in active-duty service, National Guard or Reserve at time of appointment; and two who work or volunteer for organizations that serve veterans or their families.

To be eligible for consideration, candidates must be Howard County residents, 18 years of age or older, have an interest in veteran and military family affairs and be able to attend the Commission's meetings, which are held monthly from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia.

Applicants should send a one-page resume and a brief letter explaining why they want to serve on the Commission to: Howard County Government, Office of the County Executive, Attn: David Lee, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043. The names of eligible applicants will be submitted to the County Executive for approval and then to the County Council for confirmation. **The deadline to apply is Friday, February 13.**

Vendors Sought for GreenFest

Vendor applications are now being accepted for Howard County's 8th annual GreenFest, Saturday, April 18, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Howard Community College's Burrill Galleria, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia.

This year's theme is "Living with Wildlife". GreenFest is open to all vendors and exhibitors that highlight environmentally conscious products, services, activities and opportunities for community involvement. Vendors and exhibitors with information on green products, green building, native plant sales, wildlife exploration, environmentally-friendly lawn care, energy efficiency, alternative energy, water conservation and reuse and tips for greening your everyday activities are encouraged to apply. The vendor and sponsorship application is available on the [website](http://www.howardcountymd.gov).



Reminders

Exhibits at the Center for the Arts

Howard County Arts Council is hosting two exhibits January 16 – February 27. In Gallery I, *HoCo Open* is a salon-style, non-juried exhibit showcasing the talent of local artists who live, work, or study in Howard County. *Poetic Energetic* is being displayed in Gallery II and features the lively mixed media work of Colombia-born Nico Amortegui (MALO), colorful acrylic paintings by Nigerian artist Stanley Agbontaen, and atmospheric encaustic figure paintings by Marcie Wolf-Hubbard.

Attend the reception on Friday, January 23, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the HC Arts Center. For more information, visit their [Exhibits](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/exhibits) page.

Restaurant Weeks in Howard County

Plan your visit to a local restaurant or two (or more) during the semi-annual event, January 19 - February 2. Visit Howard County Tourism and Promotion's [website](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/restaurantweeks) for more information about the participating restaurants.

Camp Expo 2015

Attend the 32nd annual Camp Expo on Sunday, January 25, 2:30 – 5:00 p.m. at Kahler Hall (5440 Old Tucker Row, Columbia). Plan your children's' summer activities with ease. Look for special prize drawings during the event.

Wellness Classes at HCGH

Howard County General Hospital is a valued partner in our community. Each month they provide wellness classes which feature a wide range of topics such as pre-natal care, managing chronic illnesses, nutrition, CPR, safe driving techniques and best practices for utilizing Medicare to name but a few.

Visit their [website](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/wellness) to explore upcoming class offerings and to register for those that are of interest to you.



Mary Kay Sigaty

mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov

Howard County on Twitter: @HoCoGov

Howard County Facebook: [facebook.com/hocogov](https://www.facebook.com/hocogov)

Howard County Council
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
(410) 313-2001